



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 24.13 Thursday, March 29, 2018 **Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren** **F R E E**

Former VBT Officer, 2 sons among 7 charged with felonies

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Robert Greene, 64, of Canton, a former Van Buren Township police officer and his two sons, John Greene, 43, and Tim Green, 42, are among seven current and former police officers facing 101 felony charges.

Last Thursday, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette announced his Public Integrity Unit has filed more than 100 charges of Uttering and Publishing, a 14-year felony, against seven current and former police officers as a result of an investigation by the FBI Detroit-Area Public Corruption Task Force into improper salvage vehicle inspections where it is alleged the officers falsified Secretary of State documents for inspections intended to detect stolen vehicles and parts

A press release from the Attorney General's office states that these specially certified officers were placed in positions of trust with the responsibility to ensure vehicles they inspected and approved for motor vehicle titles were not stolen. Instead, they falsified and signed documents published to the Secretary of State for new motor vehicle titles, according to the charges.

"These public officials cut corners and fraudulently submitted paperwork taking advantage of the trust and responsibility they are given as police officers," said Schuette. "It is important to hold these individuals accountable as there are many others who complete this job by the rules every single day. I want to thank the FBI's Detroit-Area Public Corruption Task Force and the Secretary of State's Office for their hard work on this investigation."

Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson said, "We're proud that our investigators were able to work with the Attorney General's Office to bring these dishonest individuals to justice. This is why we started the Office of Investigative Affairs, which has been fighting fraud for seven

years. These people give a bad name to the vast majority of honest, hard-working police officers who fight for us every day. No Michiganiaan should be cheated out of their hard-earned dollars."

Jeffery E. Peterson, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division of the FBI, said, "The unlawful conduct committed by these few officers should not tarnish the badges or reputations of the vast majority of Michigan's law enforcement professionals. The FBI and our law enforcement partners remain committed to rooting out public corruption at all levels."

(continued on page 9)

McBride paving project to get going this spring in VBT

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

School bus drivers, teachers, and parents and grandparents who drive to and from McBride Middle School in northern Van Buren Township are going to get a break.

As soon as the weather breaks and the asphalt plant opens, the very bumpy, dirt road will be paved. It's expected to have a life expectancy of at least 20 years.

It will be a bit confusing during construction because cars and buses will be diverted from McBride to another entry, but the road is expected to take 10 weeks and it should be all done by the time school starts in the fall.

At its March 20 regular meeting, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved a contract with low-bidder Florence Cement to pave McBride Avenue at a cost of \$528,450, with a 10% contingency.

(continued on page 10)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

There was a big turnout on Saturday for Sumpter Township's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Graham Park put on by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The first hunt was for the youngest age group. The Easter Bunny came after the hunt was done and handed out toys and stuffed animals to the children.

**Flop E Bunny candy hunt
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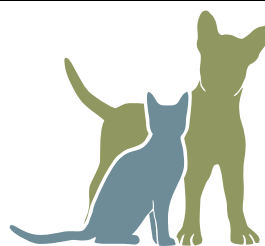
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

FIRST Robotics a crowd-pleaser at Belleville High School

Although some of the people who came to the FIRST Robotics competition at Belleville High School last weekend didn't understand all the details, here is what happened.

At the end of match play, the top eight teams were given the task of picking an alliance to compete in the playoff matches. In the style of picking teams for a playground baseball game, these teams each chose two other teams from the remaining field of 41 teams to form the alliances.

The quarterfinal, semi-final, and finals were all best 2 of 3 matches, and unlike the match play where alliances changed from match to match, the alliances during the playoff matches remained constant.

While 24 teams played in the quarterfinals and while Belleville finished in 17th place, they were not selected by any of the first eight to be part of their alliance. However, because of an issue with the robot from Dundee, Belleville, by virtue of being the highest ranking team not selected, was pressed into service to replace the disabled robot. They competed in the second quarterfinal match but did not progress to the semi-finals.

In the end, the alliance of teams from Grosse Pointe North High School / Grosse Pointe South High School (The Gearheads), Plymouth Christian Academy (The Atoms Family), and Mercy Education Project (Mercy Midnight Storm) prevailed, defeating Southgate Anderson High School (Titans), Memphis High School (Jacked Up Jackets), and Greenhills School (The Lawnmowers) in two close matches.

The feedback received from several participants and volunteers about the event itself was very positive. We hope the community received a bit of a boost during the competition, and we hope to secure even more sponsors for both the team and event next year. We are looking forward to hosting again!

For the result details, go to www.firstinmichigan.org, select FRC Events from the drop-down menu bar, and pick the 2018 season to get a listing of all district tournaments for this year. The Belleville district is about half way down the list.

- Mark Laginess



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville High School was the center of a flurry of activity last weekend as it hosted the FIRST in Michigan District Event in robotics competition for high schools. The main gym was the playing field for the contests for the 41 teams and the auxiliary gym was where teams had their pit areas. There were four district meets around the state last week end, and district competition has involved 300 teams so far. The district meets continue and it will be about two weeks before BHS will know if it is going to the state contest. If everything stopped today, BHS would be going to state. It depends on points. This year's competition involves having the robots put yellow cubes into various places during a 2.5-minute contest.



Watching competition from the upper level of the gymnasium were team mentor Mike Laginess, left, and BHS robotics team member Bradley Williams.

*To build a better
world,
start in your own
community!*



Some of the members of the Belleville High School robotics team, the "Belle Voxel-Bots," #6615, posed for a picture with their robot.

OPINIONS

Editorial

FIRST Robotics competition thrills community

The stories keep coming. The blessing of the playing field by Fr. John at the FIRST Robotics competition opening ceremonies last week end at BHS was well-received by the crowd. It's never been done at a competition before.

The presentation of the colors by young men who stood at strict attention for a half hour also brought praise.

The ride in a golf cart for a grandmother and two grandchildren from where she had to park "in the dirt" away from the main parking area to the door was another unexpected pleasure. The details of the very, very organized event continue to bring praise. These were volunteers who knew what they were doing.

"It took a lot of hours to make it happen," said School Supt. Pete Kudlak at the end of Monday's school board meeting. He said BHS has offered to host the competition again next year.

Supt. Kudlak said he heard lots of praise for Belleville's beautiful school building and how big it was. One student was surprised at the stairs to the second level, stating, "You'd think they would have escalators."

The BHS culinary students from the Ford Career Center laid out special meals in the hospitality center. No one will deny it was a high-energy, high-stakes event with lots of positive energy. And, none of the mentors involved want to take credit. It was a team effort, they say. The community thanks you all.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

A reader called to say he got a call from the Federal Reserve that told him he won a grant for \$5,000. They asked him to send a \$200 refundable amount through Walmart to them. He called Walmart and the Better Business Bureau and they both told him it was a scam. Alert.

We were told Craig Moody died at his desk at the Washtenaw County Farm Council grounds of a massive heart attack. Sumpter Township put their flags at half staff in his honor. He was hired by Sumpter on Dec. 1, 2004 and his last day at the township was May 28, 2013 -- nine years.

There was a large funeral at Grace Baptist Church in Belleville on Friday morning. He had touched many lives.

Apparently, the \$97 receipt for reimbursement I described last week that was given to me by VBT Clerk Leon Wright was for a conference in November, not the receipt that has been called for from last May. That's the one I was looking for and Clerk Wright and I got our wires snarled, I guess.

Clerk Wright said he didn't charge any meals on the township credit card last May in Montreal, so there is no receipt. Why didn't he say so right out when the trustees first asked for it?

Also, an attorney who lives in the township has provided me with a copy of an Oct. 12, 2015 Michigan Department of State Memo with Information for Incumbent Officeholders on use of campaign funds. Campaign funds may be used for incidental office expenses as outlined in Section 9 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act,

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



MCL 169.209.

This includes: "An unreimbursed disbursement for travel, lodging, meals or other expenses incurred by the public official, a member of the public official's immediate family, or a member of the public official's staff in carrying out the business of the elective office."

That seems to mean I was wrong in questioning Clerk Wright's use of campaign funds to pay for his wife's meals during their November conference. He had put them on the township credit card and then paid for them in February with a check from his campaign fund.

According to the Secretary of State there are a bunch of things a person can spend campaign funds on. Clerk Wright said his wife is his campaign manager and he knew it was all right for him to pay for her meals with campaign funds. He says he is very careful.

A practice Chinese space station, about the size of a school bus, is due to re-enter the earth's orbit between March 30 and April 2. This is not an April Fool's joke. A strip across the globe estimates where it is likely to fall and Southeastern Michigan is in the strip. It is unknown if it will survive re-entry, but it could.

The space station is named "Tiangong-1" which translates as "Heavenly Palace-1." It weighs 9.4 tons, is about 34 feet long by 11 feet wide and features 530 cubic feet of

habitable internal volume.

A Sumpter reader said she had called township hall because her water bill wasn't right and when they didn't call back, she started gathering information. She said it appears the township raised the water rates, along with the grinder pump rates and trash pick up.

The rate changes were supposed to be effective 2/22/2018, but she said it looks like they made them effective 11/03/17, as the bills the new rates appear on are for bills covering periods for 11/03/17-01/31/18 and the billing date on the bill is 02/05/18.

This adds another wrinkle to the problem, if that's what happened.

I received an unsigned letter blaming me for not getting the VBT police to solve the Egypt Covington murder. The letter said, "In your old age you must be getting soft."

The writer said during the first 48 hours after the murder instead of working on the case police officers were patrolling the fireworks instead. When I asked Director Laurain about it he was surprised at the charge. I talk regularly with police about the case and I have no reason to believe they are not doing their best to bring it to a successful conclusion.





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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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called by us "Universe", a part limited
in time and space."
— Albert Einstein

*"Seeing is believing and sometimes the most real
things in the world are things we cannot see."*

-- Tom Hanks



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Letters

Donate your used equipment to VBALL

To the editor:

As the days are growing longer and the weather is trying to turn warmer the Van Buren Area Little League is gearing up for their 2018 Spring Season.

Every year VBALL sets goals for the season. One of our goals is always improving our fields for our registered players. We also strive to not turn down any child who may be unable to play due to financial issues.

This is where we turn to our wonderful community for help. We simply ask if you have any good or slightly used gloves or cleats that you consider donating them to the Van Buren Area Little League. On opening day we put out a table covered with donated cleats and gloves and allow anyone who could or will benefit from these donations to help themselves.

As of the 2017 season we have donated over 85 pairs of cleats and 15 donated gloves to families that were unable to purchase these items for their young player. The cleats and gloves may be "old" or "used" to you and I, but to a child getting his/her own glove or his/her own pair of cleats makes their season that much better.

Please consider donating your used equipment to VBALL. Equipment can be dropped off at 42233 McBride Ave. in the Haggerty Sub.

Thank you for your generosity.
Marc Littleton - President VBALL

Surprise: Chocolate-covered strawberries

To the editor:

When I was at the Edible Cookie Shop on Wednesday, March 21, a young man came to pick up a cookie arrangement. I told him to go ahead of me.

Imagine my surprise when he got his order. He gave me a bunch of chocolate-covered strawberries.

I was so surprised. I thanked him, but didn't get his name. I'm 84 years old and appreciate what a nice man did for me. I guess I'm not as old as I thought I was.

Joyce Tkachuk
Romulus

THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!
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Thank you for the help in passing of Paul Berc

To the editor:

My husband Paul Berc recently passed away on March 9, 2018.

I would like to thank St. Joseph Mercy Hospital of Ann Arbor and nurse Kelsey.

Thank you to Cedar Woods Assisted Living and the very caring staff.

Thank you to David C. Brown Funeral Home.

Beverly Berc and Family
New Boston

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, March 31** – Flop E Bunny will be at Victory Park at noon to pose for free pictures with children. Candy hunts by age groups. Many other activities. Put on by the Belleville Central Business Community.

• **Sunday, April 1** – Easter Sunday. Easter Egg Hunt after 11 a.m. service at Faith Assembly Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Sunday school is 10 a.m.

• **Sunday, April 1** – Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., Veterans' Memorial in Horizon Park on High Street in downtown Belleville. Listen to "Taps" played and honor those in the military, past and present.

• **Monday, April 2** – The Belleville Fire Fighter Association's fifth-annual "Fill the Boot for Autism" event. Last year they collected \$3,000 and were able to give \$1,000 each to three separate foundations. Fire fighters will be standing at intersections in the city and collecting donations;

• **Sunday, April 8** – Free Sunday Music, 2-5 p.m., at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Music today by Southern Xpress. Information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan, (734) 699-8918.

• **Monday, April 9** – State Rep. Erika Geiss, D-Taylor, will hold a coffee hour 1-2 p.m. at the Romulus Senior Center, 36525 Bibbins St. Her district includes part of Van Buren Township.

• **Wednesday, April 11** -- Bookbinding Class at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Age 8 and up. Learn how books are made and make your own blank book using a Japanese stab binding technique. All materials provided. Call (699-3291) or stop by the library to register.

• **Wednesday, April 11** – Area Women's Club annual Spring Fashion Show at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse Rd. Tickets \$40. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., fashion show at 8 p.m., with fashions provided by Dress Barn. Proceeds benefit the Community and Education Fund. Tickets available from club members and at Garden Fantasy on Main.

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Dave's Treasure Trove at 668 E. Huron River Drive in Belleville is a mecca of man-cave items, with things like hunting and fishing gear, sports memorabilia, Lionel trains, and much more. They're open Tuesday through Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m. Call (734) 699-4438.

The Belleville Central Business Community presents its annual, free Flop E Bunny Candy Hunt this Saturday, March 31, from noon until 2 p.m. at Victory Park at Five Points. The candy hunt schedule starts at 12:15 p.m. with toddlers to 3 years old, 12:30 p.m. for 4-5 year-olds, 12:45 p.m. for 6-7 year-olds, and 1 p.m. for 8-10 year-olds. Free framed photos will be available with April Warner Photography and there will also be hot dogs and drinks for purchase from CAF5, a book sale with Belleville Kiwanis, and a craft table by Our Father's Child Daycare.

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for the inaugural Lakeside Strawberry 5K Run/Walk & 1K Fun Run to be held June 16 during day two of the Strawberry Festival. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$250 for a small logo on the commemorative t-shirt to \$1,000 for the largest logo on the t-shirt. Other sponsorships are needed, including the finish line sponsor, water station, treat, and bag sponsor. The 5K Run will start at the gazebo at Horizon Park and finish there. For details, call Chamber Director Paul Henning at (734) 697-7151.

With warmer weather slowly arriving here in Southeast Michigan, it's a perfect time to get rid of that unsightly tree stump by local experts Stump Grinding and owner Howard Branham. The company is experienced, fully insured, and will provide free estimates. Call (734) 497-5737.

The Yankee Air Museum will hold its next Historic Presentation Night on Wednesday, April 4, with the program titled "Clara Bryant Ford: The Believer," featuring the story of the wife of Henry Ford, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Mark Campbell of the Henry Ford Heritage Association is the presenter. The event is free and open to the public. Call (734) 483-4030.

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Obituaries



Richard Carrier

RICHARD CARRIER
Richard Carrier (The King) of Belleville passed away on October 18, 2017. He is survived by his wife Rochelle Carrier, sister Patricia Carrier, son Marc Carrier (Sylvia), daughter Rachelle Zande (Brent), and six grandchildren. He leaves behind many cousins and many friends. Everyone has a fond memory of time spent with Richard, especially at the Tiki Bar that he built at the edge of the lake at The Cape Condos. If you ever met Richard you would never forget him. He was just that special. He was the "King of Belleville Lake." This is the name that Ricky Beaver gave him years ago. Richard loved being on the water in his boat. He would stop and visit everyone along the way and would hold court (he was The King) down at the Tiki Bar every weekend in the summer. He could put a smile on everyone's face. There will be a memorial for this great man this summer at The Cape Condos clubhouse. The date is unknown, but will be published later in this newspaper.

HAZEL M. SMITH
(March 27, 1930 - March 21, 2018)
Hazel Marie Smith, age 87, of Romulus, MI, formerly of Holiday, FL, passed away Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at Hope Health Care Center, Westland, MI. She was born March 27, 1930 in Welch, West Virginia, daughter of Luther Andrew & Della (Wilhite) Greene. Hazel is survived by one son Richard (Mary) Hayden, a sister Frances Lucy (Edmund) Stratton of Dearborn, MI, brother John Franklin (Judy) Johns of Highland, MI, also several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a daughter Rhonda Haydey. Visitation was Saturday, March 24, 2018 with an 11 AM funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764, (734) 697-4500. Pastor Cliff Molnar officiated. Interment was with her daughter in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Great Lakes Caring Hospice, and would be appreciated.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

National Library Week brings events at library plus groundbreaking

National Library Week is April 8-14, and the Belleville Area District Library has several events and programs scheduled in celebration.

• **Bookbinding Class: All Ages 8 & up**
Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Learn about how books are made, and make your own blank book using a Japanese stab binding technique. All materials are provided. Please call or stop by the library to register for this class!

• **Homegrown Knowledge: History of the Library**
Thursday, April 12, 7 pm
Various guest speakers describe the history of our library, through all its incarnations. Bring your own stories and pictures from the library's past to share! Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Refreshments provided.

• **New Library Groundbreaking Ceremony**
Saturday, April 14, 11 am
Speeches, refreshments, and prizes for kids will accompany the ceremonial breaking of ground on the new library building. This is a family-friendly event.



RONALD J. MOORE
(July 26, 1946 - March 20, 2018)
Age 71 of Ypsilanti. Survivors include four children, Lisa, Matthew, Jamie and Brian; ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one sister Connie Jonetes. Services were March 24 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.
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Belleville DDA considers security for Horizon Park waterfront

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

There was \$2,500 worth of damage to the kayak launch last year and it is damaged again and needs to be fixed before the equipment is re-installed on the dock in late April or early May.

In January, "Security for Horizon Park Waterfront" was put on the follow-up list of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority. The proposed action was to improve usage and reduce vandalism. Suggested were an education campaign plus possible security measures.

At its regular meeting March 21, DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson introduced Belleville Police Reserve Officer Vic Karvelis.

She said the DDA is looking for ways to have better security "to sway people not to be as mischievous as they have been recently down there."

Karvelis, who said he has 20 years of experience in security systems, gave a presentation on what kinds of security equipment is available.

On a screen he projected different kinds of cameras, both overt and covert. He said they could throw up two cameras on the waterfront as a deterrent or there are cameras the size of his pinkie that could be put in place for covert operations.

City councilman Tom Fielder, who was in the audience, recoiled at the thought of recording people secretly. He said it should be posted with "This area is monitored." DDA members agreed.

Karvelis, who said he is an engineer technician, explained analogue vs. digital, old technology and the new high-definition recordings that avoid pixelating. He showed color night vision and talked about different technologies and connections, plus wireless operations.

Thompson said the park closes at dusk and there is less activity there. While the area is checked often, it doesn't get checked every day.

Thompson said she believes that the equipment on the launch is being misused. Very likely, someone is using it for swimming and diving and that does damage to the equipment, she said.

DDA vice chairperson Alicia McGovern asked about where someone would be watching the surveillance and Karvelis said the city wouldn't have somebody watching it, but an email or pic can be sent to whoever is entitled. He said he proposed

Belleville High School make their cameras live into the Belleville Police Department.

He said two years ago he put a camera up high over the carnival near the emergency center at Strawberry Festival and Police Cpl. Todd Schrecengost watched it and alerted officers to where problems might be averted. He said this was very successful.

Councilman Fielder asked about recordings and Karvelis said recordings could be held up to 60 days, but some are two weeks. He said there is aerial technology and it could go wireless from the waterfront through what Johnny's has.

Councilman Fielder asked Karvelis if he would help with recommendations and Karvelis replied, "We would have to see exactly what you are looking for."

The DDA thanked him for his presentation and said they would have discuss on what they want to do.

Thompson said the insurance paid all but the \$1,000 deductible for last year's repairs and DPW director Rick Rutherford is getting estimates for the current damage.

In other business at the 47-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Heard the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2017, from Kelly Howey of Plante Moran, who handles financials for the city. She said Alan C. Young & Associates auditors gave a clean audit report to the city council. She pointed out the increasing principle payments for the DDA bonds. They were \$220,000 last year and will be \$245,000 in 2019. She pointed out the DDA used \$21,026 from its fund balance to balance the books last year, leaving \$211,248 in the fund balance;

- Heard Thompson explain the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act that the governor just signed into law. She said the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Downtown Association think it is fair. This cancels the existing TIF and uses some of the rules with some new.

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Happy Easter

The Department of Treasury will create a form to report capture and spending and a lot more reporting is required. It goes into effect for the Belleville DDA at the next fiscal year, July 1, 2019. There are informational meetings with other taxing jurisdictions required twice a year, which for Belleville would be the county, library, WCCC, and city. Some DDAs are holding open houses;

- Reviewed pictures of the ten new outdoor sculptures that will be erected in Belleville and Van Buren Township in late May. The present sculptures will be

Birthdays

March 28 -- Bryce Sibbitt, Jazzman Long

March 30 -- Derek Johnson

April 1 -- Dan Martin, Sharon Warring, Virg Stoltz

April 2 -- Chuck Nerswick, Liz Hall

April 3 -- Carol Bird

April 4 -- Tina Buxton, Kera Jokinen

April 5 -- George E. Long, III

April 8 -- Odin Loy

April 24 -- Casie Ward

Do you have a birthday in April? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

removed. The newly selected sculptures will be erected at Davenport Center, Five Points, Fourth Street Square, Chase Bank, Horizon Park, Belleville Gateway Sign, Quirk Road Triangle, McDonald's/Taco Bell, Belle Tire, and Walgreen's/Menards. Paperwork needs to be completed for the proposed purchase by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts of the "Hands Held High" sculpture, currently at the Gateway, and then the city council would have to decide where it wants the gift sculpture sited;

- Approved accounts payable of \$297,845.30, which includes a bond payment of \$293,903.75 for this year's bond payment to Bank of New York Mellon; and

- Heard Councilman Fielder announce a CAF5 fund raiser on April 10 at the Belleville Yacht Club to gather donations for a Rawsonville Elementary School student who is fighting cancer.

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Cops charged

(continued from page 1)

Defendant information:

• **Tammy Barnes**, 59, of Brownstown: Detroit Police Department officer, authorized to conduct inspections by the Bangor Police Department.

- 18 felony counts of Uttering and Publishing

- Charged in the 7th West District Court in South Haven

• **Elena Danishevskaya**, 49, of Davisburg: Former Bangor Police Chief, authorized to conduct inspections by the Bangor Police Department.

- 25 felony counts of Uttering and Publishing

- Charged in the 7th West District Court in South Haven

• **Kevin Reif**, 43, of Canton: Redford Police Department Detective, authorized to conduct inspections by the Redford Police Department. Det. Reif served on an Auto Theft Task Force.

- 13 felony counts of Uttering and Publishing

- Charged in the 17th District Court in Redford

• **Tim Greene**, 42, of Romulus: Lieutenant in the Northville Township Police Department, authorized to conduct inspections by the Hamburg Township Police Department.



Tim Greene

- 6 felony counts Uttering and Publishing
- Charged in the 53rd District Court in Howell

• **Robert Greene**, 64, of Canton: Former Van Buren Township officer, authorized to conduct inspections by Hamburg Township Police Department.

- 11 counts of Uttering and Publishing

- Charged in the 53rd District Court in Howell

• **John Greene**, 43, of Wyandotte: Detroit Public Schools Public Safety Officer, authorized to conduct inspections by Hamburg Township Police Department.

- 7 felony counts of Uttering and Publishing

- Charged in the 53rd District Court in Howell

• **Greg Bumgardner**, 44, of Southgate: Former Riverview Police Department officer, authorized to conduct inspections by Riverview.

- 21 felony counts of Uttering and Publishing

- charged in the 27th District Court in Riverview.

It is believed all seven defendants were arraigned on Thursday, March 22, and will have their probable cause conferences



Robert Greene



John Greene

on April 4. A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Greens will be in front of 53rd District Court Judge Suzanne Geddis in Howell on April 4.

Hamburg Township Police Chief Rick Duffany told the media that the statute which allows specially certified officers to inspect vehicles and ensure they are not stolen before getting a title, gives municipalities a portion of the inspection fee and in a time of tight budgets becomes a necessary way to raise revenue.

He said the Greenes entered into a contract with the township in 2012, which was immediately terminated by the board in November of 2016 after he learned about the investigation. No Hamburg officers were involved nor is the department in any way implicated in the investigation, he said.

Case background:

The seven defendants were charged following an investigation by the FBI task force and the Michigan State Police. The defendants were all specially trained and certified to conduct salvage vehicle inspections. It is alleged that a large percentage of the salvage vehicle inspections they had conducted were done so improperly, not checking LEIN to safeguard against retitling vehicles rebuilt with stolen parts or retitling stolen vehicles.

A salvage title is issued for a vehicle that has become a "distressed vehicle," for example when a car is totaled by an insurance company. A vehicle with a salvage title cannot be plated or used on public roads even after it is rebuilt until it is recertified by a specially trained police officer and retitled. To do this the officer must be authorized by a police department. All defendants in the case were trained and properly certified.

When conducting salvage vehicle inspections, officers must check the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) to ensure stolen parts are not on it or the car itself is not stolen. In this case, each of the defendants conducts hundreds, in some instance thousands, of salvage vehicle inspections. The authorities conducted spot checks to ensure the officers had conducted the LEIN checks. It is alleged that these spot checks revealed that the officers

had falsely stated they had conducted the searches required by law then they had not.

The insurance industry also maintains a database of vehicles reported stolen within the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). In each felony allegation the officers did not check with NICB.

The press release said the MSP and the Secretary of State will work together to ensure all vehicles involved in this case have a proper salvage vehicle inspection. This may involve directly contacting the registered owners of vehicles improperly inspected to arrange for a new inspection. The process of identifying affected vehicles is ongoing.

Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain said former VBT Police Officer Bob Greene served his department well. He began as a part-time officer in 1988 and became full time in 1994. He retired in 2011.

"It's very unfortunate he found himself in this situation," Director Laurain said of Greene.

BHS home games

Here are upcoming Belleville High School home athletic events:

• Thursday, March 29 -- Varsity Baseball vs. Taylor Truman HS, 4 p.m.; Varsity Softball vs. Taylor Truman HS, 4 p.m.

• Wednesday, April 4 -- JV Baseball vs. John Glenn HS, 2 p.m., doubleheader

• Monday, April 9 -- Varsity & JV Softball vs. Pioneer HS, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, April 10 -- Varsity Baseball vs. Pioneer HS, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Tennis vs. Crestwood HS, 4 p.m.; Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Grosse Ile HS, 5:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Grosse Ile HS, 7 p.m.

Diane Kiessel
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McBride paving

(continued from page 1)

This project is part of the Wayne County grant that requires matching funds.

The Van Buren Public Schools put up \$90,000 in matching funds because McBride Middle School is on the street. The rest of the matching funds were from a special assessment district for McBride property owners.

It had been estimated that the SAD cost to property owners would be \$600 a year for five years, but because of the low bid it is more like \$210 a year. It could go up to \$310 a year if they have to go into the contingency fund.

The work had been estimated at \$700,000, but the \$528,450 bid left part of the county grant unused, so the extra funds can be used to help four or five subdivisions who had limited road work to do and had the matching funds in their treasuries.

Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development, named the subdivisions wanting road work as Walden Woods, Robinson River Park, Andover Farms, and Charter Club, with a possible fifth subdivision.

“We don’t like to return money,” said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara, referring to having to return county grant funds that aren’t used this year.

In other business at the one-hour-and-five-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved the proposal of Wade Trim to provide professional engineering services for the McBride paving project in an amount not to exceed \$73,400;
- Approved the bid of \$31,307.85 from Johnson Controls, Inc./Controls/Tyco Integrated Security to provide a new security card access system;
- Authorized VBT to participate in the Michigan Economic Development Corporations (MDEC) Redevelopment Ready Communities program;
- Approved a resolution for the Belleville Road Improvements and Pedestrian Bridge for the Downtown Development Authority to assume the township’s obligations under the proposed contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation. If the DDA passes this resolution as well at its March 27 meeting, the documents will be sent on to the MDOT. The DDA also has set aside

in escrow money for the maintenance of the bridge for its life;

- Approved a contract between the township and MDOT with regards to construction of a non-motorized path along the east side of Belleville Road over I-94. The MDOT cannot sign a contract with the DDA because the DDA is not a permanent entity, having a sunset in 2038. The estimated total cost of the bridge is \$1,693,700 and with \$396,900 in federal aid, the township’s share is (DDA’s) \$1,296,800;

- Approved the reappointments of Joyce Rochowiak, Ronald Blank, and Helen Foster to the DDA with terms to expire March 9, 2011;

- Heard Supervisor McNamara say the township is doing well economically and is not doing mass infrastructure to attract development as it did with Visteon. “We are solid and we can grow slowly,” McNamara said, adding that is the feelings of his board; and

- Was informed the big green sign has been delivered to Menards and because they decided to double the size of the mezzanine store opening has been delayed and is expected around June 1. There will be a soft opening before it opens officially.

Trustee Frazier’s joke turns into big deal in Van Buren Township

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the end of the March 6 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Trustee Paul White held up a Michigan Township Association monthly magazine and announced that VBT was featured on its pages.

He said the story wasn’t signed so he didn’t know who wrote it but it was a very nice story. There was silence at the board table.

Then, Trustee Sherry Frazier said, “I did,” and then repeated her statement. Those at the board table continued their awkward silence. The meeting adjourned.

As board members were gathering up their things from the board table, Treasurer Sherry Budd left the meeting room briefly

and then came back in and excitedly announced that Lisa Lothringer, deputy director of the Downtown Development Authority, had sent in the story to the MTA. It wasn’t Trustee Frazier at all.

“Put that in the paper,” Treasurer Budd said to the *Independent*.

At the March 20 regular board meeting, Treasurer Budd read aloud a letter she wrote to Lothringer thanking her for the story in the MTA magazine. She said “our trustee” took credit for submitting the story to the MTA.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara said once a month, one township gets featured in the MTA Focus and the story promoting the township VBT was a beautiful job.

“Credit was redirected and it was a mistake,” he said.

Trustee Reggie Miller commented on the question of credit.

“It was irrational behavior to take credit,” Trustee Miller said. “I saw it so different from how others saw it ...”

Trustee Frazier said, “I regret saying that... It was a beautiful story. I came to see Lisa ... I wanted to see Susan [DDA Director Ireland], but she was in Lansing ... I sent a message to Lisa saying I am glad you are recovering [from surgery].”

Frazier said she sincerely tried to apologize.

“I jokingly said ‘I did’ several times” [after it was said they didn’t know who did the story,] Frazier said, adding the article was not signed and, “I didn’t mean to take any credit for your article. ... I sincerely am sorry.”

Van Buren Fire Dept. seeks buildings for firefighter training

The Van Buren Township Fire Department is asking property owners who may have a structure that is abandoned and/or ready to be demolished to allow firefighters to conduct training in it.

There are three types of training:

- Non-destructive (used for search and rescue training);
- Destructive (used for breaching walls, cutting holes in roofs, knocking out windows, etc.); and
- Burn (used for fire suppression activities -- eventually burning the structure to the ground).

The VBTFD needs abandoned/vacant buildings for these different types of training. If a property owners has a vacant structure that he/she would like to donate for use by the fire department, but doesn’t want the building destroyed, he can request it be used for **non-destructive** training.

If a property owner has a vacant structure that is scheduled for demolition, the fire department would be grateful to use it for **destructive or burn** training.

The best structures for firefighter training are ones that are not good for the owners -- having low appeal for potential tenants. Buildings that are most sought after are abandoned/vacant: single family residences, multi-family residents, one or two-story apartment buildings, and large “Big Box” facilities (i.e. grocery stores, hardware stores, commercial-type buildings, etc.).

Some of the criteria for the properties include having had a completed asbestos survey and proof of NO insurance. To donate property or for more information, contact Battalion Chief Ron Folks at rfolks@vanburen-mi.org or (734) 341-3724.

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School Board votes to move forward with selling vacant properties

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to sell the vacant properties it owns and move forward with negotiations with St. Anthony Catholic Church regarding the purchase of vacant land on Davis Street.

Board secretary Kevin English was absent.

It was noted the district would use a local Realtor, but it was not specified how the Realtor would be selected.

Over the past few months, the district has gathered information on the properties and then turned it over to an ad hoc committee to make a recommendation to the board.

The recommendation was to put all the properties up for sale, as is, but to retain one parcel that is not immediately of interest to buyers, so the district would still have one vacant parcel.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak said the district also will seek an evaluation from a solar company on the properties to see if one would be suitable for a solar field.

The properties going up for sale are:

- 19.84 acres on Denton Road, Canton Township, zoned R-1, Single Family Residential, estimated value of \$533,478;
- 31.52 acres at 17601 Elwell Road, Sumpter Township, zoned AG – Agricultural, estimated value of \$847,541;
- 10.93 acres on Morton Taylor Road, Van Buren Township, zoned R1B, Single Family Residential, estimated value of \$279,377;
- 8.56 acres on Mary Catherine in West Willow, Ypsilanti Township, zoned R-5 One-Family Residential, estimated value, \$230,170; and
- The Career Tech buildings and grounds on Sumpter Road are also up for sale. The property will be put up for sale as is and demolition considered if it doesn't sell with the buildings.

The estimates were presented to the board in February and appraisals were due in March.

Supt. Kudlak said St. Anthony's wanted a letter of intent to continue negotiations on purchase of the back 10 acres, which is in the city of Belleville and zoned R-1 One-Family Residential with an estimated value of \$268,890.

Supt. Kudlak said he learned that in the past the district had been in negotiations with the church to buy the 10 acres beyond the fence, but at that time the appraisal turned out to be less than the offer, so the district backed off.

The vacant parcels on Elwell Road and Denton Road are being leased for farming on a yearly basis.

In other business at Monday's 58-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved the second reading and adoption of 50 pages of Board Policies, as presented by board member Alison Bennett and recommended by NEOLA;
- Approved attendance of five students at the DECA Leadership Academy in Atlanta, GA, April 20-25. Chaperones are Jason Butka and Betty Small;
- Approved the resignations of teachers Sarah Garvey, Haggerty/Tyler, as of June 30; and Melissa Jowett, Owen Intermediate, as of March 23. Both had served less than one year;
- Approved the resignation of Theresa Holton from the Transportation Department as of March 19 after four years of service;
- Heard Financial Director Shareen Barker report the new payroll software is being phased in and they are working on the new district budget;
- Heard Director of Plant Operations James Williams say he is working on card access for the whole district, excluding the high school which has card access;
- Heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun report the insurance committee now is working with actual numbers. He said they learned the district paid \$3.2 million for insurance for just the teachers and there were claims of just \$2.1 million. He said the district could have saved \$1.1 million just on the teachers' unit. He said after spring break the committee will be

considering all insurance options and may change what the insurance in the district is going to look like;

• Heard Supt. Kudlak say the optimum size of a school is said to be 5,000 students and Van Buren Public Schools has hit the "sweet spot." He said you can't get all the successes the district has had with a smaller student body and you can't get lost in a larger population; and

• Heard Supt. Kudlak report the district has contacted the state for a waiver so the high school doesn't have to make up two days and extend the school term through June 18. He said BHS is the only building that needed makeup days since the power went out in November and the March 13 threat closed that school. He said BHS students were due to get out Thursday, June 14, but they could move the exams to Thursday and Friday and get out June 15. Also, the school year is not over and there might be additional closings needed.

Wayne-Monroe Regional Science Olympiad Tournament Results for Belleville High School March 24, 2018

- Chemistry Lab - 4th Place
Nina Hardy and Andy Schweers
- Disease Detectives - 6th Place
Mikayla Oddy and Amy Montgomery
- Dynamic Planet - 5th Place
Kylie Morton and Natalie Hornyak
- Experimental Design - 5th Place
Andy Schweers, Matt Mrocca and Nina Hardy
- Fermi Questions - 6th Place
Andy Schweers and Matt Mrocca
- Forensic Science - 4th Place
Davis Mears and Amy Montgomery
- Game On - 6th Place
Kylie Morton
- Optics - 5th Place
Kylie Morton and Brandon Johns
- Thermodynamics - 4th Place
Kylie Morton
- Bag of Bones - 4th Place
Natalie Pestano

It was announced at the school board meeting that two middle school students also earned medals, but their names were not announced.



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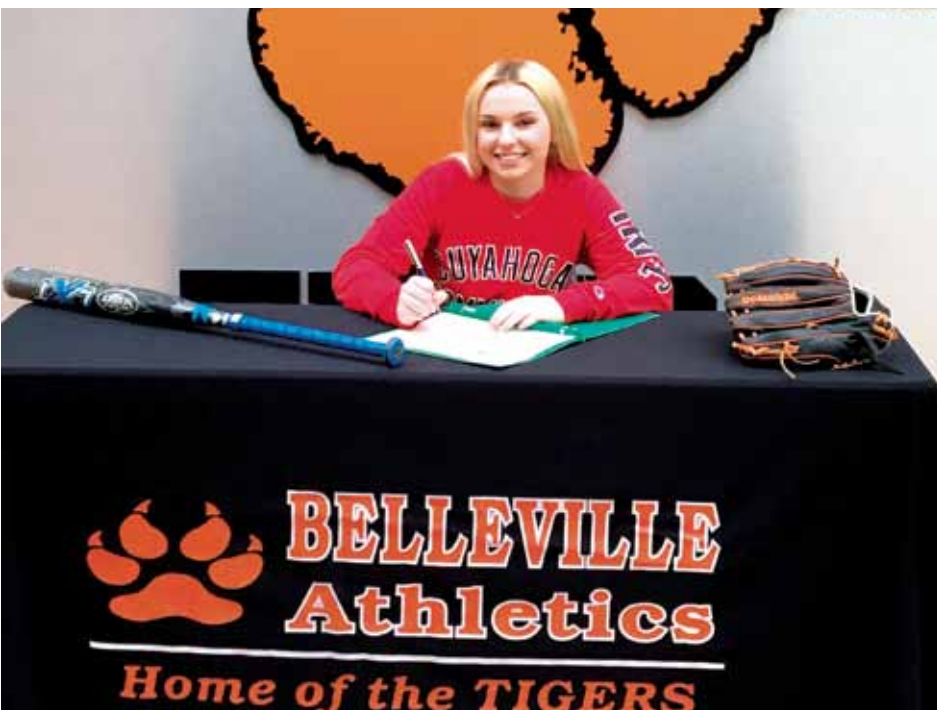
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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

March is Reading Month and Edgemont Elementary School decided to concentrate on “Charlotte’s Web” and for everyone to read it and everyone to help decorate the school hallways like a farm. They ordered the book for every classroom and the teachers put paper farm fences up and down the hallways. The children filled the fences with farm animals they made, from the ducks made by kindergartners to the cows made by fourth graders. Pausing for a picture at one of the farms are, from left, fourth graders Dylan Babbitt and Ella Mida, first graders Paige Richards and Stevie Baltat, and school team leader for the project, teacher Deb Gerst.



Belleville High School senior Mackenzie Kennedy signed to play softball in 2018 at Cuyaoga Community College.



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Keystone Academy in Sumpter Township announces the students who were tops in the March virtue of Encouragement. From left in front are: Easton Arecheja (Y5), Landon Wilhide (K), Kristin-Joy Ahamiojie (K), Thomason Than (K), Alex Luke (1), Mackenzie Jokimaki (2), Hope Gentile (2), Nicholas Gianotti (2), Marlena London (1), and Ryan Spoonamore (1-not pictured). In the second row, from left, are: Amelia Metzcs (5), Ethan Rose (5), Nolan Henderson (5), Camron Heeringa (4), Anaya Smith (4), Claire Davis (4), Spencer Wilson (3), Natalia Suchyta (3), and Jaiden Dixon (3-not pictured). In back, from left, are: Nadia May (6), Danielle Agyemang (8), Sydney Davis (8), Rylee Geal (8), Benjamin Pitu (7), Avery Segur (7), Nadia Evans (7), Miranda Flournoy (6), and Juanita Agyemang (6).

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Court Watching:

Singleton bound over to circuit court for armed robbery with a cane

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On March 21, Timothy Lee Singleton, 58, was bound over to circuit court by 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley for an arraignment on the information on a charge of armed robbery with a cane.

Singleton is due at the Frank Murphy

Hall of Justice on March 28.

He was lodged in the Wayne County Jail on a bond of \$500,000/10% on a charge of armed robbery in Van Buren Township on Sept. 15, 2017. Judge Oakley approved a bond review by pretrial services.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Heather Kempton started the preliminary exam by saying the prosecution amends the charge that had said Singleton was armed with a handgun to say he was armed with a cane.

Ronald Rayford, the victim, was the only witness. He testified that on Sept. 15 he was on Old Michigan Avenue and Outer Drive in VBT when he was robbed by an acquaintance Tim and another younger man with a gun who he didn't know.

He said he knew Tim for about a month because he stayed down the street with his sister. He didn't know his last name, but he identified him in the courtroom.

Rayford said he had gone to a store to buy a pack of cigarettes and then was walking down the street to the Lucky 2 Party Store when Tim and his friend pulled up. They drove him to the second party store where he cashed his paycheck for \$209 and bought two small bottles of vodka and took a little hit out of one.

He said he gave Tim's friend, the driver, \$5 to drive him to the Ypsilanti bus station. He said his sister needed to move a refrigerator from her house into the garage and he was going to help her.

But the driver made a wrong turn near Johnny's Hot Spot and said he had to see his sister and drove to a trailer park and got out to talk to his sister, but no one was home. The three got back in the car, with Tim in the front passenger seat and Rayford in the back seat.

That's when the driver reached under the front seat and got a gun and pointed it at Rayford, he testified. The driver took

Rayford's wallet, he testified, and then threw it on the ground when he found it was empty.

The driver told Rayford he knew he had money because he just cashed his check. Rayford testified he had the cash hidden in his sock

"If you don't give me the money now, I'll shoot you," the driver said, according to Rayford's testimony.

"I was scared cause I didn't want to get shot," Rayford testified.

He said Tim opened the back door of the car and hit him twice in the face with his cane and was going to hit him again, but the driver told him to stop. The driver said he would just shoot him "if he acts any kind of funny," Rayford testified.

"I was going to give him my money," Rayford said. After the driver took his money and his cellphone the two drove off and left him standing by the side of the road. He said a lady said, "Are you all right, sir?" and he told her that he'd been robbed and to call the police.

Court-appointed attorney David Lankford said Singleton striking Rayford had nothing to do with taking of the property and it was irrelevant to the progress of the crime. The crime was going to be completed anyway, Lankford said.

Judge Oakley said that was one of the most interesting arguments he has heard.

Prosecutor Kempton said that was for a decider of fact to decide downtown.

Lankford said the other guy had the gun. His friend was saying, "Don't be stupid. Give him the money. ... Context is important here."

Judge Oakley said you can't say he wouldn't have given him the money if he hadn't been whipped twice.

"The only way your argument is interesting is we can't assume he knew Rayford was going to give up the money.

It's for a trier of fact," Judge Oakley said, noting Singleton could have hit him to say, "Hurry up. Give us the money so we can leave."

Anton Tarae Brooks

Anton Tarae Brooks, 25, waived his preliminary exam on charges of fleeing police in a vehicle and driving while license suspended in VBT on Feb. 13.

He is scheduled to be at circuit court on April 4. He is free after posting surety bond of \$25,000/10%.

Zachary Dane Rochowiak

Zachary Dane Rochowiak, 28, waived his preliminary exam on a charge of assaulting a police officer in the city of Belleville on Feb. 6. He is due in circuit court on April 4. He is free after posting bond of \$4,000/10%.

Scott David Matthews

A felony domestic violence charge against Scott David Matthews, 35, was dismissed by Judge Oakley after the Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor asked for the preliminary exam to be adjourned because Officer Harrison, who was a necessary witness, wasn't present.

Judge Oakley said he scheduled that day's exam on March 6 and the prosecutor should have known before today (March 21) that the officer wouldn't be here. The prosecutor said she learned on Monday that the officer wouldn't be here and she sent on the notice by email.

Judge Oakley said he has dismissed Matthews' charge without prejudice so it could be refiled in the future. Matthews had been held in the Wayne County Jail on cash/surety bond of \$15,000.

The alleged crime occurred on March 5 in VBT.

Judge Oakley told Matthews that there was \$465 still owed by him on a misdemeanor charge and Matthews said he

(continued on page 14)

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK "CHARLIEN"



Sweet **Charlien** can't be beat! She's a pretty black and brown tabby that we think is about 4 years old. She came to the shelter with her sister Tessa after surviving a difficult home environment. Tessa has since been adopted and **Charlien** says it's her turn now. **Charlien** has a sweet-tempered, affectionate and somewhat goofy charm that is likely to win any personality contest she entered. She would like a cozy life that includes lounging in comfy spots for naps, getting pets, being given compliments on her beauty and having delicious meals served everyday. **Charlien** would also prefer a quiet home since she feels she's had enough of the crazy scene in her last home. If you would like to meet sweet **Charlien** call the shelter today, she's already spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



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Joshua Burger sentenced to 15 months to 20 years for arson

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Joshua Mark Burger, 30, was sentenced to prison after a Wayne County Circuit Court jury found him guilty of arson of an insured building or structure with the intent to defraud the insurer.

A second charge of third-degree arson was dismissed.

On March 7 he was sentenced by Judge John Paul Cusick to 15 months to 20 years in prison and he began his sentence at once, with credit of three days for time served. He is at the Egeler Reception and Guidance Center in Jackson before he is assigned to a state prison for his term.

His first parole date is June 30, 2019. His earliest release date is June 3, 2019 and maximum date of incarceration is March 3, 2038.

Burger was arrested after his pawn shop business, Pawn Max, burned on April 12, 2017.

Court watching

(continued from page 13)

would pay \$50 a month starting April 2.

Terence Leroy Riley

Terence Leroy Riley, 41, waived his preliminary exam on two charges of uttering and publishing on Oct. 9, 2017 in VBT. He is free after posting \$2,000/10% bond. He is due at circuit court on April 4.

Billy Joe Hicks

Billy Joe Hicks, 36, had been charged with uttering and publishing in VBT on Sept. 26 and was lodged in the Wayne County Jail on a bond of \$10,000/10%. Judge Oakley dismissed the charge against him because the prosecutor said it did not occur in the court's venue.

Kevin Michael Jarvis

Kevin Michael Jarvis, 32, waived his preliminary exam on charges of child abuse 3, resisting/obstructing/assaulting a police officer, and domestic violence on Feb. 23 in VBT. He is due at circuit court on April 4. Jarvis is free on personal recognizance bond of \$20,000.

Burger, who lived with his wife Alisha in Romulus, maintains his innocence, contending that the fire was a result of the spontaneous combustion of rags wet with linseed oil, which were used in the restoration of an old guitar.

Defense attorneys David Griem and Kristina Joseph reportedly are appealing the verdict and the sentence. They say they felt a critical witness, insurance adjuster Becker, should have been allowed to testify.

Becker's testimony would have rebutted the Prosecution's insurance witness's testimony and arguments made by Prosecution that all damage to Burger's business would have been automatically reimbursed under his insurance policy.

The attorneys presented a six-page memo to the judge on March 5, two days before sentencing, asking for alternative sentencing.

In a series of statements included in the memo, Burger was described as a "beloved, caring and generous member of a strong family with a wide network of friends and colleagues."

During Burger's June 26 preliminary exam before 28th District Court Judge James A. Kandrevas police and fire witnesses testified to finding two sources of ignition of the fire in places that were not near electrical service or anything else that would cause a fire to start.

A Michigan State Police lab found accelerants in a rag and on metal/plastic debris that was a container.

Also in evidence was a DVR recording of Burger repositioning the shop's surveillance cameras to aim more toward the ceiling away from where the fires started a few minutes later.

Burger reportedly owned Southgate Exchange, Inc., the business, but not the building. He filed an insurance claim on loss of the contents.

He and his father, Chris Whitt, purchased Pawn Max in 2012. The owner of the building said that she enjoyed having Burger as a tenant and would welcome him back in a heartbeat.

In the memo, she said several months before the fire, Burger put an expensive new sign on the outside of the business.

A list of places that received donations from his business was included in the memo.

James Chapman sentenced to 6 months for obstructing justice

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

James Forrest Chapman, 58, who was found guilty of assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer by a Wayne County jury on Feb. 22, has been sentenced to six months in jail.

On March 22, Chapman was scheduled for a 9 a.m. sentencing before Circuit Court Judge Margaret Van Houten, but at 9 a.m. he was not present in court.

Van Buren Township police officers offered to drive to Belleville to give Chapman a courtesy ride to court if he needed transportation.

Det. Donovan McCarthy called Chapman offering the ride and Chapman reportedly said he didn't want to talk to McCarthy and hung up.

Judge Van Houten said she would give him until noon to get to court.

At 11:30 a.m., Chapman arrived in court. The previous day he had come to court to deliver a stack of letters written by supporters asking Van Houten to give him probation rather than jail time.

"I don't care who wrote the letters," Judge Van Houten reportedly stated. "They don't know the situation."

The sentencing guidelines were one to 17 months incarceration and the Michigan Department of Corrections prison system reportedly favored probation, apparently

so they wouldn't get a prisoner with a brief sentence.

VBT Police Lt. Charles Bazy said the recommendation from the court's probation department was read aloud in the courtroom. The report said Chapman has done poorly on probation, with assaultive activity. He also has made no payments at all on the fines he owes to the court.

After Judge Van Houten sentenced him to six months in jail, he was immediately remanded to the Wayne County Jail.

The sentence for the June 13, 2016 charge closes Chapman's obstruction of justice charge for jumping in Belleville Lake after a VBT police officer told him to stop and also closes the violations of probation sentence involved with a 2015 stalking charge.

After he was found guilty of obstruction of justice by the Wayne County jury on Feb. 22, his DNA sample was taken and the misdemeanor charge for refusing to give a sample was dismissed.

His court-appointed attorney was Patrick Nyenhuis.

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Daniel Newkirk, at left, and Michael Newkirk, at right, pose with Detroit Police Chief James Craig after delivering the chief's new custom-made holster. The chief contacted them after seeing many of his officers wearing custom-made holsters by the Newkirks. He said he wanted one for his daily carry. Since then, he has ordered a second one, Daniel said. The Newkirks operate their business, Split Second Tacticals, in downtown Belleville in the front half of the Enrica's Golden Needle tailoring and alterations store at 436 Main Street.

Family, friends of murdered woman upset over lack of arrest

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Egypt Covington was shot and killed on June 23, 2017 in her home on Hull Road in Van Buren Township.

While Van Buren Township police have investigated the case since then, there has been no arrest and Egypt's family and friends are tired of waiting.

They do not wish her murder to become a cold case and they keep it alive with statements to the media.

VBT Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain said his department is still waiting for some lab tests and his department isn't letting it become a cold case.

Last week, VBT police released the name of a person of interest who they had questioned in the past and wish to question further. He reportedly now has a lawyer and has stopped talking to police.

The *Independent* will not print the suspect's name until he is formally charged and arraigned in court. But Detroit media discussed the case over the last week and printed the name.

"We have one bite of the apple." Lt. Charles Bazy said last fall when discussing the case. If the case is brought without solid evidence, any suspect could go free and, because of double jeopardy, could not be charged again.

Family and friends of the victim want to keep her case alive and have put up signs throughout the community asking for anyone with information on the murder to come forward.

Director Laurain said his department has ties with the FBI and the FBI have done profile work on the case. Other agencies also have helped the department, but so far there is not enough evidence for an arrest.

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New VBT K-9 Handler: Officer Ryan Barry



Van Buren Township Police Officers Ryan Barry and Michael Rini tested for the township's new K-9 Handler position on March 14 at K-9 Academy. VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said both officers expressed their passion for the position and were well prepared physically and for the intense interview process that followed. "What we saw during the testing phase made us very proud to have both of them representing our department," Director Laurain said, adding that at the end of the week, it was difficult to make the selection between these two officers. They selected Officer Barry for the position of K-9 Handler and he will begin his training in April.

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Planners recommend change of land use map for 75-acre Smith farm

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a public hearing, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission sent a recommendation to the township board that the future land use map for the 75-acre Harold Smith farm in Denton be changed from low-density single family B zoning to light industrial zoning.

The farm is located at 50015 Michigan Avenue on the south side of Michigan east of Ecorse Road and west of Denton Road.

At the commission's regular meeting March 14, Ron Akers, director of planning and economic development, said the property is zoned single family and has been planned for single family.

The application is to rezone and that means the future land use map needs to be amended, following the Michigan Planning Zoning Enabling Act.

Since the commission voted to recommend changing the map, it will go before the township board at its April 2 work/study meeting and its April 3 regular meeting.

"If they approve, it would then have to go through the rezoning process," Akers said.

Akers said they asked the planning consultant to look at sites in the township that could be industrial and consultants looked at the sites, access, utilities, and residential protection and pointed to the Smith farm.

Akers said he recommends a 300-400'

buffer on the western edge of Denton Village be left as green space, on the Smith farm property. He said 300-400' would be from the western edge to his large barn. Then there would be an additional 60' buffer, bermed and planted with trees.

Four Denton residents came to the public hearing on the change of the map and two spoke out.

Tim Johnson of Cross Street said he was three doors down and asked if the buffer zone would be put in place no matter what. Akers said it would if the version presented goes through.

He asked about trees and the noise, since Denton residents already get noise from the traffic and the airport. He wanted to make sure trucks would not be using Denton streets to enter the industrial site.

Ben Griffin, the real estate agent on the project, said there is no real site plan at the moment and he is "just playing with it" to see how it could be developed. He said a lot of people have been interested in the property.

Johnson said he has lived in his house for just a few months and he saved money for seven years to buy it.

Another resident of Cross Street, asked what could go in the light industrial zoning, besides factories and warehouses.

Commission chairwoman Carol Thompson said the zoning ordinance has quite a list and they could get that to him.

Akers said it is for manufacturing

operations, but not the type that generates a lot of noise and more likely the operations are completely indoors like the development on Schooner Drive. He said the truck traffic would go out to Michigan Avenue and not come through the subdivision.

Akers said there could be laboratories, research and development sites and possibly something tied in with the American Center for Mobility nearby.

When the size of the facility was questioned, Akers said it could be half the size of the Costco warehouse on Belleville Road.

The resident said the prevailing wind is from the west and chemicals could be in the wind and noise.

Akers said the township has a noise ordinance when at 8 or 9 p.m. the noise must reduce to 45-50 decibels and the zoning ordinance has performance standards.

Akers said the township hasn't received any specific proposal for the specific type of business.

Griffin said after the rezoning is finished in June or July things should start moving.

The resident said the neighbors are not against Smith selling his farm and doing what he wants to do, but they are concerned about what effect this would have on their quality of life. They have a quiet neighborhood with dirt streets.

Chairwoman Thompson said it would be helpful if the neighbors kept coming to

the meetings as the plans progress so they could give their input.

Thompson said Cross is a dirt road and she wouldn't think you could get a semi in there.

"I don't see any scenario where they would come through Denton Village," Akers said, adding they would have to come in to connect to water and sewer there.

"I live on Denton Road and have known Harold for 20 years," Thompson said. "I would like Mr. Smith to do what he wants to do. His family has been farming there 175 years.

"It would be nice if the whole village would pull together to make sure the township makes the development the best it can be."

The four Denton residents left the meeting before the vote was taken to recommend the change to the land use map.

After the vote Thompson said to Griffin, "The 99 residences of Denton Village expect you to bring something beautiful."

"It's a great location," Griffin said, noting they would get something good.

In other business at the 52-minute meeting, the commission:

- Held a public hearing on a zoning ordinance amendment on detached accessory building regulations and then voted to recommend the amendments to the township board. Akers said the

(continued on page 17)

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• Bordetella
• Rabies 1Yr.

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DOG PACKAGES

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• Wellness Exam
• Distemper
• Bordetella
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• Rabies 1 Yr.

#4 \$24

• Wellness Exam
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#5 \$69

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• Distemper
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• Rabies 1Yr.

#6 \$59

• Wellness Exam
• Distemper
• Bordetella
• Lepto
• Rabies 1Yr.

With coupon. Coupons cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 4-30-18

VBT Plan

(continued from page 16)

changes deal with setbacks, the approval process, deleting the need for ratwalls and concrete floors for accessory buildings in an Agricultural zoning, and other changes. Thompson said they were housekeeping issues mainly based on changes in the law;

- Approved temporary land use for the seventh season of Phantom Fireworks selling from a location in the parking lot of Lakewood Shopping Center near Kmart. They will be there June 22 through July 4; and

- Briefly discussed the proposed Ashley Capital warehouse development. Akers said in February he reached out to them and they didn't want to come back to the planning commission until they heard from the county on the traffic issue. They were preparing a resubmittal to the county, Akers said. He said the township reviewed their traffic study and determined a traffic light at the third driveway doesn't appear to be needed now. He said Ashley could put funds in escrow if it determined to be needed in the future.

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VBT board settles law suit brought by woman hit by cop car

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The law suit against Van Buren Township that was brought by Anna Wambaugh after a VBT police officer hit her vehicle head on in 2016 has been settled.

At the March 6 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees, the board unanimously approved the attorney's recommendation to settle the lawsuit as part of the consent agenda. There was no discussion and no information given out.

Wayne County Circuit Case No. 17-008615-NI was settled for \$150,000, with VBT paying \$75,000 and another defendant, Swagerty, paying \$75,000.

Since VBT's deductible is \$75,000, that's what it will pay from its budget and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) would pay nothing additional on this settlement.

The summary of the case by MMRMA shows on June 14, 2016, Officer J. Short was traveling northbound on Belleville Road to assist another officer with a criminal matter occurring at Walmart. He did not use his vehicle's siren or lights, but he considered the matter he was traveling towards to be serious.

He encountered Swagerty's silver Saturn as he drove towards the Belleville Road / N. I-94 Service Drive intersection. Officer Short first observed Swagerty's vehicle as it exited the freeway and attempted to cross Belleville Road's two lanes located on its northbound side of the road. Swagerty said he sought to cross the lanes to make a left turn towards Wendy's restaurant on the west side of Belleville Road.

Due to Swagerty's decision to cross both

lanes and not slowly merging from one lane to another, Officer Short had to quickly maneuver his vehicle to avoid hitting the driver side of the Saturn.

Officer Short said he decided to take his chances driving into the southbound portion of Belleville Road rather than strike Swagerty at a high rate of speed.

It is undisputed he struck Wambaugh head on in Belleville Road's southbound lane. It is also undisputed he was traveling 14 mph

over Belleville Road's 45 mph speed limit shortly before the time of impact. In its memo to the board, MMRMA said Officer Short was able to significantly reduce his speed to approximately 25-27 mph before hitting Wambaugh.

Wambaugh continues a personal injury / auto negligence case against Swagerty's insurance company, Geico Indemnity Company. A settlement conference is set for May 3 before Judge Muriel Hughes.



The Romulus Animal Shelter won a statewide Michigan Pet Fund Alliance award for being the 2016 Medium Shelter with the Greatest Lifesaving Improvement: 10.06% improvement. Van Buren Township has a contract with Romulus to house its stray dogs. Bonnie Freeman, Romulus Director of Ordinances and Animal Control, has made it her mission to improve the shelter's live release rate by implementing new programs to increase the number of adoptions and transfers. Working with a supportive staff and volunteers, they are getting the word out to residents and getting more exposure for the animals. From left are MPFA chairperson Deborah Schutt presenting the award to City of Romulus Animal Shelter staff members Bonnie Freeman, Annie Hall, and Rae Lipkowski.

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Library to convert to new online checkout, catalog system

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Area District Library will migrate from Sirsi-Dynix to CARL as part of The Library Network's shared online checkout and catalog system.

At the March 13 regular meeting of the library board, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said this is a huge undertaking for The Library Network and the 50-plus libraries who participate in the shared system.

She said in preparation, the library staff has spent the past several months cleaning up its database, making sure to delete any patron or item records that are out of date.

Staff training for the new system will occur at the end of April.

Director Suchy said beginning on May 11, they will be unable to edit bibliographic records until they go live on May 29. In addition, the statewide MeLCat interlibrary loan service will be suspended from April 1 to July 1.

The shared system will be down on Saturday through Monday of Memorial Day week end so that the final conversion can take place and the software from all third-party vendors can be tested.

She said CARL and The Library Network strongly recommend that libraries close that week end, since the public will be unable to check out books, use the catalog to find books, or obtain library cards.

The board voted unanimously to close

the library on May 26, the Saturday of Memorial Day week end, as well as the regular Sunday closure and Memorial Day closure.

Board vice chairman Mary Jane Dawson, who was chairing the meeting, said, otherwise, staff could just show people books, but not let them take them out.

Suchy said the new catalog system will feature a much more intuitive public interface and will return better search results.

Deputy Director Hilary Savage said the new system is more of an Amazon search and staff will be able to take it out to the people and check out books to people not in the building.

"We're excited about making this change," Suchy said.

In other business at the 37-minute meeting, the board:

- Learned the bid package for site construction for the new library has been submitted to the city of Belleville for engineering and permit review. Bids have been solicited and will be opened at 2 p.m. March 27. The ceremonial 11 a.m., April 14 groundbreaking was discussed. Cake and light refreshments are being planned. Construction is expected to start May 1;

- Heard architect Dan Whisler report that the formal vacating of Fourth Street is still being worked on by attorney John Day. Whisler said it is unknown if this will impact the construction schedule, but May/

June is the ideal time for site work instead of November/December;

- Learned board chairman Sharon Peters was absent and excused from the meeting because she has broken her ankle. Board member John Juriga was also absent;

- Learned the board hopes to have two meetings at the end of April to update the neighbors on the library construction. Whisler suggested they send out logistical information to the neighbors; and

- Heard Whisler announce that the future meetings are coming where decisions will be made on colors and textures as the project continues. Up until now there has been a lot of painful decisions on budget cuts.

Lincoln Consolidated Schools to hold follow up community forum

Lincoln Consolidated Schools Superintendent Sean R. McNatt will host a community forum as a follow up to a meeting held in March on school crisis response. The forum will be held on Wednesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center located at Lincoln High School, 7425 Willis Road, Ypsilanti.

Supt. McNatt will report on several questions that were presented as part of the original forum. Parents are encouraged to attend even if they did not attend the meeting in March and engage in a community dialog on this important topic, he said.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, April 2 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 3 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 10 – Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- Thursday, April 12 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- Monday, April 16 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. at the Commons at Belleville High School. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 17 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 18 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.



They're reading the Independent everywhere

St. Theresa's Circle of St. Anthony's Parish read their *Belleville Independent* during their weekend stay in Holland, MI, while enjoying the annual "Girlfriend's Weekend" event there March 1-4. From left in front are Kathy Roof, Lenore Razo, Tere Acosta, Betty Kurczewski, and Barb Schoenith. In back, from left, are Sue Woolery, Lyn Eyler, Pat Howard, Mary Palazzolo, Mary Herring, Cindy Weipert, Dorothy Skszek, and Gina Simpson.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

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Huron Valley Steel's investments begin to pay off as market expands

"2015-2016 were challenging years, not just for us but for the entire metals recycling industry," said Eric "Randy" Fritz, President and CEO of Huron Valley Steel Corporation (HVSC).

"Despite those challenges, HVSC has continued to invest in new technology and is planning for growth. Now with the improved market conditions, it is refreshing to look back and realize those

efforts are beginning to pay off," Fritz said.

With the improved steel market and recent scrap import restrictions imposed by China, HVSC anticipates greater volumes of Zorba will be available to the U.S. domestic market for processing. As a result, Huron Valley Steel has identified and now is pursuing additional areas of corporate growth.

In addition to investments in company-

wide capital improvements, HVSC has plans in place to add a secondary aluminum facility in Alabama. The greater availability of Zorba and increased aluminum demand will allow the company to expand its secondary aluminum alloy production to the South while continuing to serve its current customers' aluminum scrap needs.

The company currently melts aluminum scrap production from its Belleville facility into a secondary aluminum ingot and sow. With the new scrap-melting furnace, HVSC plans to increase its current annual melt capacity to produce more secondary aluminum products to sell to the automotive die casting market throughout North America.

HVSC is one of the largest recycling

processors of shredded non-ferrous mixed metals generated by automobile shredders in the United States and Canada. The shredded non-ferrous mix, known in the scrap industry as "Zorba," is processed by the company at its two media plants in Belleville, MI and Anniston, AL. Approximately 80% of the non-ferrous metals it recovers from Zorba are aluminum alloys.

Headquartered in Trenton, MI, Huron Valley Steel operates recovery and recycling facilities in Belleville, MI and Anniston, AL. For more information visit <http://www.hvsc.net/>.

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Sumpter Township Public Notice

Township of Sumpter Notice to Electors Close of Registration

To the Qualified Electors of the Township of Sumpter, Wayne County, Michigan. Notice is hereby given that **Monday, April 9, 2018 is the Last Day** to register for the **May 8, 2018 Special Election**. The Township of Sumpter Clerk's office, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 will be open from **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** for the purpose of receiving applications of qualified electors in the Township of Sumpter who are not already registered. If you are not currently registered to vote in the Township of Sumpter at your present address, you may do so in any of the following ways:

In Person:

- At the Sumpter Township Clerk's Office, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 p.m.
- At any Secretary of State Branch Office during normal business hours.

Obtain Forms Online

- Mail-in Voter Registration Applications may be obtained here: www.Michigan.gov/vote

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- By obtaining and completing a Mail-in Voter Registration Application and returning it to Sumpter Township Clerk's office by the close of registration deadline, April 9, 2018.

Sumpter Township Clerk
 Esther Hurst
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Esther Hurst
 Clerk
 Sumpter Township

Publish: March 29, 2018

Posted: March 26, 2017

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 20, 2018

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller and Trustee White. Absent: Clerk Wright (excused). Others in attendance: Secretary Selman, Planning & Economic Development Director Akers, IT Director Rankin, Dave Nummer (Wade Trim) Sgt. Devos, and an audience of two (2).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve the agenda as presented with following additions: to add new business item number five (5) to consider Resolution: 2018-04 and item six (6) to approve the contract between Van Buren Township and M-DOT. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, White seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session minutes of March 5, 2018. Board Meeting minutes of March 6, 2018. Prepaid List of March 8, 2018. Prepaid List of March 15, 2018. Voucher List of March 20, 2018. Approval of the reappointments of Joyce Rochowiak, Ronald Blank and Helen Foster to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) with terms to expire March 9, 2022]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CORRESPONDENCE: McNamara and Budd read statements recognizing Assistant DDA Director Lothringer as the author of an article published in Michigan Township Focus which was taken credit for by a Trustee at the prior Board Meeting. Frazier read an email sent to Lothringer apologizing for the misunderstanding related to the article saying she jokingly took credit for the article and thanked Lothringer on her exceptional service promoting the Township. Miller said it was irrational to publicly take credit in this way. Frazier responded that she regretted saying it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the proposal by Johnson Controls, Inc./Controls/Tyco Integrated Security to provide a new security card access system in an amount not to exceed \$31,307.85. Motion carried.

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the proposal by Florence Cement to provide

Road Paving for the McBride Road Paving Project in an amount of \$528,450.00 with a 10% contingency. Motion carried. This amount comes in substantially lower than previously estimated and is more cost effective to McBride Road residents.

Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the proposal by Wade Trim to provide professional Engineering Services for the construction of the McBride Paving Project in amount not to exceed \$73,400. Motion carried.

Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2018-03 authorizing the Township to participate in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program. Motion carried. The MEDC's purpose is to evaluate and certify communities based off of transparency, consistency, predictable processes, and best practices.

Budd moved, Martin seconded to approve Resolution 2018-04 a Resolution for Belleville Road Improvements and Pedestrian Bridge for the DDA to assume the Township's obligations under the proposed contract with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Motion carried.

White moved, Miller seconded the approval of a contract between the Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) with regards to construction of a non-motorized path along the east side of Belleville Road over I-94. Motion carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor McNamara read an email from Public Safety Director Laurain stating that Ofc. Rini and Ofc. Barry tested for the position as K-9 handler. Ofc. Barry was awarded the position. Trustee Frazier announced that Belleville High School will host a Robotics Tournament March 23rd and 24th. Treasurer Budd announced the Township Hall would be closed Friday March 23rd for Emergency Preparedness training for Township employees. Also, the Township would be closed Good Friday March 30th. Trustee White mentioned that Menards would have a soft opening soon.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Martin moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
 Published: March 29, 2018

Public Notice

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS OF DECEDENT'S TRUST ESTATE:

The Settlor, Robert J. McLeod (date of birth October 29, 1929), who lived at 23067 Emmett Street, Taylor MI 48180, died July 6, 2017. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Robert J. McLeod and Luana Lee McLeod Revocable Trust, established December 11, 1997, will be forever barred unless presented to Leslie Michalik, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Publication date: 3/29/2018

Nicholas S. Kovach (P76387)
Attorney for Trustee
34705 W. 12 Mile, Suite 160
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
(248) 406-0620

Leslie Michalik
Successor Trustee
30250 Kimberly Ct.
Farmington Hills, MI
(214)236-1317

Pagan honored with mParks State Elected Official award

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, was presented with the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association (mParks) State Elected Official Award at the Canton Township board meeting on March 13.

The honor is a result of Pagan's commitment to improving the quality of life in the community, including her involvement in launching the Lead #LikeAGirl program in Canton Township, which is run through Canton Leisure Services to help instill leadership qualities in young women between the ages of 11 and 15.

Pagan is also the Democratic vice chair of the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee where she helps craft the state budget for the Department of Natural Resources, which allocates money to state parks and trails, conservation officers and the Great Lakes.

"As someone who grew up in Canton and calls Canton my home, I am proud to have helped launch the Lead #LikeAGirl program in Canton Township," Pagan said. "I have had the honor of inviting this program to our state capital and showing the young women what a day in the life of a legislator is like. It is with the support of Canton Leisure Services that this program is a success. By showing girls and young women what it's like to lead, we are instilling in them that they can achieve anything. I am also grateful to have Canton Leisure Services as an ally in protecting our natural resources. Canton is a thriving community because of our parks and recreation and trails system. Our economy and tourism industry rely on our Great Lakes, state parks and recreation areas, and as Michiganders, we share a special responsibility for maintaining our state's natural beauty."

Every year, mParks awards honor elected officials and parks and recreation advocates, agencies and professionals



State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, receives the mParks State Elected Official Award from Laura Mortier, recreation specialist at Canton Leisure Services, at the Canton Township Board Meeting on March 13.

who go above and beyond in supporting Michigan's recreation industry. For more information about mParks and the award, go to mparks.org.

Rep. Pagan also represents the city of Belleville and Van Buren Township in Lansing.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 434 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, March 18:

0009 -- noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0034 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Chloe Ct. / Jeremy Rd.
0135 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
0221 -- fight, Rawsonville Rd.
0624 -- larceny, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
0917 -- property damage accident, N. Sadie Ln.
1003 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Woodbury Dr.
1052 -- domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1115 -- family trouble, Anna Dr.
1144 -- 911 welfare check, Tavistock Rd.
1415 -- animal complaint, Beck/Ecorse
1416 -- shooting, Hannan Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1654 -- harassment call, Roe
1722 -- animal complaint, Beck/Ecorse
1748 -- operating while intoxicated, Hoeft / W. Huron River Dr.
1808 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
1832 -- abandoned auto, Jackson St.
1900 -- assist fire dept., EB I-94 / Haggerty
2032 -- animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
2135 -- domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
2153 -- noise complaint, Farm Rd.
2159 -- 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
2253 -- neighbor trouble, Victoria St.

Monday, March 19:

0233 -- family trouble, Dewitt Rd.
0237 -- larceny from auto, Belleville
0252 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Daisy Blvd.
0309 -- assist fire dept., Ecorse/I-275
0318 -- animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
0915 -- assist other dept., Lighthouse Dr.
0936 -- threat, Peachtree Ln.
0941 -- traffic offense, Robson Rd./Moms Dr.
1205 -- civil matter, Jackson St.
1314 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Thornwood Dr.
1426 -- assault & battery, E. Huron River Dr.
1520 -- domestic, Arborview Ln.
1608 -- assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd.
1714 -- animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1722 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville
1732 -- fraud, America
1743 -- suicidal person, McKinley St.
1942 -- juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
2058 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
2146 -- animal complaint, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
2150 -- mental subject, Sumpter Rd.
2206 -- 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2211 -- animal complaint, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
2327 -- assault & battery, N. Huron St.
2330 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Holly Ln. / S. Ponderosa Trl.

Tuesday, March 20:

0349 -- domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
0436 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Morton Taylor
0511 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
0601 -- property damage accident, Haggerty/Bemis
0603 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
0733 -- disorderly, Robson Rd.
0942 -- private property impound, Belleville
1013 -- malicious destruction of property, Arthur
1047 -- warrant arrest, Sumpter Rd.
1103 -- domestic, Winchester St.
1106 -- fraud, Quirk Rd.
1112 -- miscellaneous complaints, N. I-94 Service
1215 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
1328 -- fraud, Fairbanks St.
1523 -- larceny, W. Huron River Dr.
1629 -- domestic, Village Green Ln.
1635 -- traffic offense, Stonebridge Dr. / E. Walden Dr.
1632 -- domestic, Sondra Dr.
1801 -- animal complaint, Greenbriar Dr.
1841 -- fraud, Patty Ln.
1845 -- domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1914 -- warrant arrest, Clinton St., Detroit
2014 -- warrant arrest, Van Buren St.
2303 -- fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, March 21:

0305 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Menards
0739 -- traffic offense, Country Walk Blvd.

0839 -- domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0946 -- threat, E. Schooner Dr.
1108 -- private property impound, Van Born
1305 -- assist other dept., Liberty Ln.
1414 -- breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
1545 -- neighbor trouble, Van Buren Ln.
1559 -- ordinance violation, Martz Rd.
1649 -- assist citizen, Jackson St./Jackson Ct.
1704 -- motorist assist, Belleville/WB I-94
1909 -- dumping complaint, Sheldon/Van Born
1926 -- civil matter, Hamlin St.
1954 -- civil matter, Hamlin St.
2034 -- breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2056 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2118 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Pine Dr.
2233 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Timberview

Thursday, March 22:

0156 -- suspicious person/vehicle, E. Huron River
0229 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0301 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0728 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Snow Rd.
0750 -- traffic offense, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1044 -- private property impound, Van Born
1108 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
1222 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1334 -- personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / Coolidge St.
1352 -- ordinance violation, W. Huron River Dr.
1521 -- threat, McBride
1619 -- private property impound, Lake Point Blvd.
1640 -- larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
1714 -- threat, Belleville Rd.

1715 -- property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1721 -- fight, Bradley Dr./Daniel Dr.
1803 -- neighbor trouble, Bradley Dr.
1829 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.

1838 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
1941 -- traffic offense, S. I-94 Service/Denton Rd.
2012 -- animal complaint, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
2118 -- domestic, E. Archwood Dr.
2134 -- family trouble, E. Huron River Dr.
2229 -- warrant arrest, Rawsonville Rd.
2249 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.
2251 -- threat, Hull Rd.
2335 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Friday, March 23:

0002 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
0042 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0130 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0136 -- assault & battery, Parkwood
0152 -- suicidal person, E. Huron River Dr.
0731 -- animal complaint, Van Allen Ave./Ayres
0931 -- dumping complaint, Quirk Rd.
1207 -- private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1244 -- assist citizen, Edwards Rd.
1411 -- assist other dept., Winding Pond Dr.
1715 -- property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1816 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Pond Ridge Dr.
2022 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Barkley St.
2052 -- 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2128 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
2155 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.
2257 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Pointe Dr.

Saturday, March 24:

0156 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Mansfield
0817 -- warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1102 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1249 -- civil matter, Hull Rd.
1301 -- private property impound, Walmart
1434 -- animal complaint, Greenbriar Dr.
1537 -- property damage accident, Hull Rd./Elwell
1658 -- malicious destruction of property, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1706 -- suspicious person/vehicle, KFC
1800 -- malicious destruction of property, E. Huron River Dr.

1812 -- trespassing, Belleville Rd.
2023 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2122 -- warrant arrest, Michigan
2214 -- found property/child, Tavistock Dr.
2235 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis Rd.
2354 -- noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this log are 144 traffic stops, 28 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 18:

0637 -- Pbt, Main St.
1625 -- harassment call, Loza Ln.
1753 -- operating while intoxicated, High St. / W. Columbia Ave.

Monday, March 19:

0021 -- welfare check, W. Thornhill Ct.
0142 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
0230 -- parking complaint, Estrada/Belle Villa
1530 -- property damage accident, Carmell St.

Tuesday, March 20:

0839 -- parking complaint, Main St./E. Columbia
1131 -- 911 welfare check, Belle Villa
1325 -- malicious destruction of property, 5th St.
1545 -- follow up by officer, Bedell St.
1723 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
2038 -- warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis

Wednesday, March 21:

0256 -- assist fire dept., Greylock St.
0934 -- larceny, Anaheim St.
1156 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1322 -- assist fire dept., Henry St.
1521 -- noise complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
1904 -- motorist assist, Third St./Main St.
1906 -- intrusion alarm, Main St.
2059 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, March 22:

0342 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St. / E. Huron River Dr.
1313 -- vehicle lockout, E. Columbia Ave.
1747 -- intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1852 -- property check, W. Columbia Ave.
2040 -- assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.

Friday, March 23:

0841 -- welfare check, Loza Ln.
1125 -- found property/child, W. Columbia Ave.
1406 -- larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1454 -- property damage accident, W. Columbia
1711 -- assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1727 -- 911 welfare check, Third St.
2021 -- civil matter, Loza Ln.
2212 -- assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave.
2232 -- animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.

Saturday, March 24:

0049 -- disorderly, Belle Villa Blvd.
0220 -- assist other dept., Brookview Dr.
1206 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1615 -- miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
1754 -- traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr.
2201 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, High St.

Also on this week's log are 86 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 18:

0244 -- operating while intoxicated arrest, Victoria / Sumpter
0532 -- assist other agency, 10000 bl. Willis Rd.
0812 -- abandoned vehicle, Rawsonville/Willow
0957 -- larceny, Edgewood
1010 -- suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1021 -- fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Deborah Ct.
1523 -- malicious destruction of property, Country Club Blvd.
1614 -- down wires, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
1713 -- fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1823 -- shots fired, Wear/Haggerty
2024 -- family trouble, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
2034 -- suspicious incident, Wayside Dr.
2254 -- suspicious incident, Washington

Monday, March 19:

0816 -- fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1025 -- civil dispute, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1139 -- civil dispute, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1314 -- civil dispute, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
1541 -- animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1545 -- fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
2122 -- civil dispute, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.

Tuesday, March 20:

0502 -- fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
0804 -- animal complaint, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0818 -- noise complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
0915 -- suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1011 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1036 -- warrant arrest pick up, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1110 -- suspicious vehicle, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1304 -- suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Sherwood
1742 -- neighbor dispute, Rustic Ln.
1833 -- civil dispute, 44000 Harris Rd.
1840 -- alarm, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
2027 -- warrant arrest pickup, Rustic Ln.
2230 -- suspicious vehicle, Claxton/Wilmot
2242 -- warrant arrest pick up, out of township
2330 -- alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Wednesday, March 21:

0158 -- suspicious vehicle, Willis/Rawsonville
0507 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, E. Arizona
1043 -- fraud complaint, 45000 bl. Bontekoe
1115 -- animal complaint, Bemis/Martinsville
1221 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1242 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1343 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1344 -- assist other agency, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
1403 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1440 -- suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Sully Dr.
1544 -- juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1605 -- property damage accident, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1705 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1725 -- suspicious incident, Timberlane Dr.
1759 -- alarm, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1841 -- fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
1958 -- shots fired, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2120 -- 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Fenster
2130 -- threats complaint, Brookview Dr.

Thursday, March 22:

0309 -- fire dept. assist, 9200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0343 -- animal complaint, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
0754 -- citizen assist, Virginia
1040 -- fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1421 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1631 -- 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1706 -- shots fired, 41000 bl. Wear Rd.
1732 -- fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1824 -- juvenile complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1902 -- larceny, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1928 -- assist other agency, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
2008 -- assault, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2206 -- suspicious vehicle, Judd/Rawsonville

Friday, March 23:

0258 -- civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
0710 -- alarm, 7300 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
0921 -- fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1023 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1039 -- suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1241 -- animal complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1433 -- fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1602 -- fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1627 -- civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
1657 -- identity theft report, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1706 -- suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1712 -- fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1801 -- fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Clark Rd.
2103 -- juvenile complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville

Saturday, March 24:

0138 -- warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Willis
0214 -- suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0217 -- disorderly person, Brookview Dr.
0559 -- fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
0954 -- shots fired, Carriage Ln.
1050 -- assist other agency, Texas
1239 -- shots fired, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1419 -- assist other agency, out of township
1603 -- fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1730 -- malicious destruction of property, Carriage Ln.

1808 -- fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1940 -- civil dispute, Texas
2009 -- warrant arrest pick up, 22000 bl. Sherwood
2128 -- fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.

Also on this week's log are five follow-up investigations, 41 miscellaneous details, 103 patrol checks, and 46 traffic stops.

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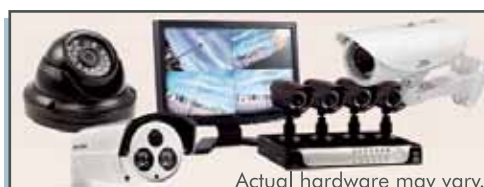
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BREAK-INS CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

On Sunday, Barbara Rogalle Miller, right, hosted a brunch at her Van Buren Township home in honor of her former homeroom student Michael J. Roessler, center, and his wife Mary, who live in Dimondale. They hadn't seen each other for 54 years.

Homeroom teacher, high school student reunite after 54 years apart

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Michael J. Roessler, 70, of Dimondale drove to Van Buren Township on Sunday with his wife Mary to be reunited with his high school teacher.

This was almost 54 years after they last saw each other in an Indiana home room.

Barbara Rogalle Miller, his teacher and now an attorney in Belleville, recently was sorting through some boxes of books in her home to find some to send with her son Philip, who was heading to Alaska for a two-year employment contract as assistant city manager in Valdez.

Philip found a book with a written inscription and a three-page letter folded up and tucked inside.

The letter was to "Miss Rogalle" from one of her former high school students, Mike Roessler, John Adams High School Class of 1965 in South Bend, Indiana.

Miller was delighted and got on the internet to Google Roessler. She found him in Michigan and invited him to brunch with a few of her friends. He came on Sunday with his wife on one arm and three yearbooks under his other arm.

Roessler, who was president of the student council his senior year, said he had asked another English teacher for a suggestion on what book to buy Miss Rogalle as a going-away present, since she was moving back to Michigan to help take care of her ailing father.

The book was "One Day in the Afternoon of the World," a novel by William Saroyan. Roessler said he ordered the book at the bookstore in town and thought it would get to him in time to give it to Miss Rogalle before she left. But it was delayed all summer and he finally sent it to her in September 1964.

Inside the cover, he wrote: "To Miss

Rogalle in appreciation for a boost in the right direction applied (sic) to the swelled and ignorant head of one very grateful member of homeroom 106. I'll never forget you."

Roessler said one day his best friend Billy Schohl had asked him for a ring in home room and, when he didn't have one to loan him, Billy improvised when he asked Miss Rogalle to marry him.

Miller said she didn't remember getting engaged, so she assumes she said no.

Schohl is now an advertising copywriter in Los Angeles and he and Roessler keep in touch on the internet and talk on the phone all the time.

After graduating from high school in 1965, Roessler went on to graduate from the University of Michigan in 1969. He taught secondary education for 39 years and then became a professor of education at Albion College for four years. He now is retired.

He and Mary have a daughter Kate who is a teacher in Dexter.

Roessler presently spends time on his website "Humpty Trumpty's Great Fall," which he said is an attempt to ameliorate the damage done by the president. He said his friend Billy writes amusing comments regularly on the site.

Roessler's 1964 letter mentioned that he was grateful that Miss Rogalle taught him the importance of giving back to the community. And she taught him tact, which has come in handy.

"I'm still working on tact," Roessler said on Sunday.

Former VBT Trustee Jeff Jahr, who was a guest at Sunday's brunch, said it was amusing to him to see that Miller's former student is retired and Miller is still practicing law.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK is APRIL 8-14, 2018

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL LIBRARY-THEMED PROGRAMMING THIS WEEK!

FAMILY STORY TIME: APRIL 9, 6:30 PM

Stories, songs, and crafts for kids 4 & up and their families. Registration required.

TODDLER STORY TIMES: APRIL 10 & 12, 11 AM

Toddler-focused story times with books, songs, and crafts. Registration required.

BOOKBINDING CLASS: APRIL 11, 7 PM

Make your own book using a Japanese stab binding technique. All ages 8 & up. Registration required.

HOMEOWN KNOWLEDGE: APRIL 12, 7 PM

Special guest speakers share the history of the library from its very beginning!

NEW LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING: APRIL 14, 11 AM

What we've all been waiting for! Join us for the ceremonial breaking of ground for the new library site. All are invited to this family-friendly event. There will be cake, refreshments, and special prizes for kids.

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